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Message Text

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53
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 L-01 SS-14 H-01 INR-05

NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 ARAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

SSO-00 /036 W
---------- 101391
O 091253Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3908

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2537

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF 3 PUERTO RICANS BY DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES

REF: A. SD 2517, B. SD 2529, C. DAO 2526 OF 6 JUNE

1. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE IN EMBASSY NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE PROPOSED PARA 5 BELOW.

2. AFTER LEARNING IDENTITY OF 3 PUERTO RICANS DETAINED BY DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES, EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER MADE TELEPHONE APPROACH TO HIS USUAL CONTACT AT NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON MORNING JUNE 6 TO SEEK VISIT DETAINED PERSONS. HE WAS TOLD REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE POLICE CHIEF.

3. SINCE NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THAT AFTERNOON, A FRIDAY, KNOWING THAT NO ACTION WAS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN OVER THE WEEKEND, AND DESIRING TO REGISTER BEFORE THEN EMBASSY CONCERN WITH WELFARE OF THE DETAINED PERSONS AS U.S. NATIONALS AT A SUFFICIENTLY INFLUENTIAL LEVEL, I CALLED FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ AND WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM FRIDAY EVENING. JIMENEZ SAID HE APPRRCIATED MY CALLING HIS ATTENTION TO MATTER, WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME FURTHER
OVER
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WEEKEND.

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4. SATURDAY EVENING, JIMENEZ SENT WORD TO ME THAT PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT DETAINED PERSONS WOULD SUFFER NO PHYSICAL HARM. I SUBSEQUENTLY REACHED HIM BY TELEPHONE AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS ASSURANCE BUT REMINDED HIM OF OUR DESIRE TO HAVE CONSULAR OFFICER VISIT THE DETAINED PERSONS. AT FIRST, HE STATED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH DOMINICAN LEGAL PROCEDURES, ACCESS TO DETAINED PERSONS COULD NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL QUESTIONING OF THEM WAS COMPLETED. WHEN I REITERATED THAT EMBASSY HAD OBLIGATION TO DETAINED PERSONS, AS U.S. NATIONALS, TO SEE THAT THEIR HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS WERE PROTECTED AND THAT REQUEST FOR CONSULAR VISIT TO THEM FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE, JIMENEZ SUGGESTED I SEND A NOTE TO HIM ON MONDAY CONVEYING OUR REQUEST.

5. I THEREFORE PROPOSE SENDING FOLLOWING NOTE DIRECTLY TO JIMENEZ, SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE:

BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIEMENTS TO THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE REPORTED DETENTION BY THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES OF THREE UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM PUERTO RICO ON JUNE 2 AND TO THE FACT THAT AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO VISIT THEM.

RECALLING THE USUAL COOPERATION OF THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES IN FACILITATING ACCESS OF EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE SECRETARIAT'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO VISIT THE AFOREMENTIONED PERSONS NOW IN DOMINICAN CUSTODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE EMBASSY MAY FULFILL ITS CONSULAR RE-SPONSIBILITIES TOWARD UNITEDSTATES NATIONALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 36 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS, DATED APRIL 24, 1963.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AVAILS ITSELF, ETC. END TEXT

6. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT THE 3 PUERTO RICANS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY, WHO ARE CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO DAO SOURCES (REF C), THE THREE HAVE ADMITTED THAT THEY CLANDESTINELY LANDED 3 DOMINICAN GUERRILLAS ON THE COAST NEAR SAN CRISTOBAL. THE GUERRILLAS ARE NOW BEING SOUGHT IN INTENSIVE POLICE AND MILITARY OPERA-TIONS.

7. THE THREE DETAINED PUERTO RICANS ARE APPARENTLY IN GOOD

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CONDITION, ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE DAO. THEIR
DETENTION AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRENT
SEARCH FOR GUERRILLAS HAVE NOT YET BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE,
THOUGH AT SOME POINT WE EXPECT THAT GODR WILL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE
THESE FACTS.

8. RELEVANT TO NOTE ALSO THAT DOMINICAN OFFICIALS ARE USUALLY
VERY COOPERATIVE TOWARD EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICIALS ON PROTECTION
AND WELFARE CASES AND ORDINARILY RESPONSIVE TO EMBASSY APPROACHES
ON DETAINED US CITIZENS.
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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